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# Senior Class Gift program builds support

Furman University

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# Furman Fund reaches unprecedented levels

The 2000-2001 fiscal year will be remembered as "A Year of Records" for the Furman Fund.

For years, Furman has been able to boast of having one of the most financially supportive bodies of alumni in the country, and 2000-2001 was no exception. The year brought remarkable success in annual giving thanks to the help of dedicated volunteers, an exceptional group of alumni and student callers for our phonathons, and the leadership of trustee Leighan Rinker and her husband, David, whose \$625,000 gift toward the renovation and expansion of the library challenged alumni donors to new levels of generosity.

Besides the record-setting numbers in 2000-2001 (see chart), many volunteers made their own special contributions to help the Furman Fund reach its goals. Lige Hicks '41 is a prime example.

Thanks to Lige's leadership, his class achieved something no other class has done: 100 percent participation in the Furman Fund! Lige began the year by predicting that his class would be the first to achieve this unprecedented level of giving, and anyone who knows Lige knows that when he says he is going to do something, he does it. With hard work and determination, Lige not only met his goal, he did so by May 1, a full two months before the end of the fiscal year.

Dennis McClellan '80, head agent for his class, began the year with a goal of finding 20 classmates to donate \$1,000 each in honor of their 20th reunion. Dennis and the class not only met the goal, they surpassed it with 27 donors of at least \$1,000 — a record for such a young class.

With the help of such outstanding support, the Furman Fund will continue to provide funding for scholarships, academic facilities, teaching technology, and a variety of other campus programs. Furman's record of support over the last few years shows that

	2000-2001	Previous Record
Classes with 50 percent participation	45	43
Classes with 60 percent participation	28	17
Classes with 70 percent participation	12	2
Classes with 80 percent participation	2	1
Total percentage participation (all classes)	51.06	50.34
Unrestricted gifts by alumni and friends	\$1,902,129	\$1,786,767

alumni want their university to reach its full potential and to continue to provide the finest educational experience possible.

Thanks to all of you who volunteered for the university in some way, made donations to the Furman Fund, and shared your excitement about Furman with others during 2000-2001. You made the year truly special — and encouraged us to set our sights even higher for 2001-2002!

— Phil Howard  
Director, Furman Fund

## Plaques installed on McAlister seats

The engraved plaques for the handsomely refurbished seats in McAlister Auditorium have arrived and been installed — and they are beautiful!

The plaques recognize individuals who contributed \$250 to refurbish a seat (or seats) in the auditorium. After 40 years with the original upholstery, the seats were in critical need of restoration. Furman alumni and friends stepped up in a big way to support this effort.

Plaques already installed recognize everyone who placed an order before May 15. Plaques ordered between May 15 and July 31 will be installed by Homecoming Weekend, October 19-21.

You are welcome to view the plaques in the auditorium whenever you visit Furman. During Homecoming, a representative from the development office will be in McAlister Auditorium on Saturday, October 20, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. to help you find your seat.

Seats are still available for adoption. To find out more, or to learn the location of your seat, contact Tim Winkler, associate director of major gifts, at (864) 294-3717 or by e-mail at [tim.winkler@furman.edu](mailto:tim.winkler@furman.edu).

## Senior Class Gift program builds support

The Senior Class Gift program is an ongoing Furman tradition in which graduating seniors raise money to give something back to Furman for all that Furman has given them during their college years. Each class selects a cause or program to support through pledges, most of which are payable over a five-year period.

Recent graduating classes have chosen a variety of projects to support. The Class of '96 raised funds for the amphitheater; '97 supported the purchase of electronic periodicals for the library; '98 contributed toward a campus entrance near Timmons Arena, off Duncan Chapel Road; '99 created a scholarship to support students who wish to study abroad; and the Class of 2000 raised funds for a plaza at Cherrydale, Furman's Alumni House.

The Class of 2001 decided to endow a scholarship in memory of one of its own, Mary Mlecko of Pittsburgh, Pa., who was killed in a traffic accident in October 1999. Class president Scott Martin and secretary/treasurer Nikki Miller, who headed the fund drive, announced at the June 2 Commencement that the class had raised more than \$52,000 in gifts and pledges from class members and their parents.

This year, to promote class unity and assist seniors in preparing for graduation,

Furman introduced a new program called Senior Salute. Held in February, the program offered seniors the chance to register for graduation, order caps and gowns, graduation announcements and class rings, meet with members of the career services staff, learn about the Young Alumni Council and the Alumni Association, and make their pledge to the Senior Class Gift. Seniors truly seemed to appreciate this "one-stop-shop" approach to helping them take care of their graduation needs.

This year's Senior Class Gift campaign drew to a close with a "Cap and Gown" picnic, sponsored by the Young Alumni Council and Herff-Jones Scholastic Products, where caps and gowns were distributed.

Without the support of alumni, Furman would not be the institution that it is today. In addition to honoring one of its own, the members of the Class of 2001 have taken the first steps toward becoming active, supportive alumni.

To make a contribution to the Mary Mlecko Memorial Scholarship, contact Judy Wilson, director of Parents Programs, at 1-800-787-7534 or through e-mail at [judy.wilson@furman.edu](mailto:judy.wilson@furman.edu).